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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Congratulations to you, the graduating class, upon your academic achievements. Congratulations to your parents, grandparents and spouses who have worked and sacrificed to make possible this happy day.

At the birth of our nation, the people of this land, relying upon Divine Providence, pledged to each other their Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor to support a new government.

That government was characterized by President Lincoln, 87 years later at Gettysburg, as a nation "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Our founding fathers believed that governments are instituted to secure people's rights, "deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Abraham Lincoln expressed

this revolutionary idea in different words, as "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Now, almost two centuries later and during your school years, our nation has faced three challenges. In the past, such challenges have caused democracies to falter and fail.

The first challenge was whether to wage war or negotiate peace. This challenge came for us in Vietnam.

The second challenge was whether to make changes in a civil society in an orderly way or through violence. This challenge came for us in the division over Vietnam policy, including the unfairness of the draft, the controversies over civil rights and the crime wave of the sixties.

As you graduate, America is face-to-face with the third challenge, the challenge of security and solvency, which is now worldwide.

Our people met the challenge of war or peace in Vietnam

contributed and expended?

At this time of year, in sports, there is emphasis upon winning. It has often been repeated that "winning is everything." Paradoxically, in public life, politics and government that isn't so.

Thousands have offered their lives in defense of our country because they have felt that what we have here is more precious than life itself. Likewise, even though one must win to hold office, the covenants of the Declaration of Independence and the Northwest Ordinance have formed the foundation of our system of government and they are worth losing for. I believe that you, as educated citizens, put a premium upon ideas, integrity and principles, rather than gimmicks and name identification.

The choice, as always, is yours. If you fail, our nation will fail. I, for one, am optimistic about the future because I believe in you.

God bless you.